

REMARKS

The present invention was originally filed as an international application. This preliminary amendment is being filed in order to place the application in a form which is in conformity with United States practice.

Claims 10-11, 14-15 and 19-21 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-9, 12-13 and 16-18 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and to conform to U.S. practice. New claims 22-39 have been added. In addition, headings have been added to the specification. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, Claims 1-9, 12-13, 16-18 and 22-39 are currently pending.

In as much as the present amendment does not introduce new subject matter and, in any event, places the application in better condition for consideration on the merits, entry hereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert C. Morriss
Registration No.: 42,910
Attorney for Applicant(s)

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(516) 822-3550
RCM:kd
137465_1.DOC

VERSION OF AMENDMENT WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method for separating components from vegetable material , said method comprising [characterized in that the material is] at [the] least [partly] partially fiberizing said vegetable material [fiberized] and subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material [subsequently is separated] into a fiber fraction [and a juice stream, such that the fiber fraction principally] , which comprises relatively firm tissues [such as epidermis, sclerenchyma and vascular bundles], and [the] a juice stream , which [principally] comprises soft tissues [such as parenchyma and cytosol].

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the vegetable material is mechanically fiberized.

4. (Amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the vegetable material is fiberized by means of a refiner.

5. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [-4], wherein the fiber fraction is separated from the juice stream by screening, centrifugation, processing by hydro(cyclone), centriscreening, decanting, sedimentation, or combinations thereof.

6. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [-5], wherein the vegetable material originates from a genetically modified plant.

09869401 "091701
FOI 00000000

7. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [-6], wherein the vegetable material [at least originates from] comprises [underground] parts [such as roots or tubers,] of a plant which grow underground.

8. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [-7], wherein the vegetable material originates from a cultivated crop.

9. (Amended) A fiber fraction obtained [through] by a method [according to any one of claims 1-8] for separating components from vegetable material comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material, and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues.

12. (Amended) A juice stream obtained [through] by a method [according to any one of claims 1-8] for separating components from vegetable material comprising:

- a) at least partially fiberizing said vegetable material, and
- b) subsequently separating said at least partially fiberized material into
 - i) a fiber fraction comprising relatively firm tissues, and
 - ii) a juice stream comprising soft tissues.

09/868,401, 09/17/01

13. (Amended) A juice steam according to claim 12, which contains more than 55% [, preferably more than 75%, preferable more than 90%] of the crude protein of the vegetable material.

16. (Amended) [Use of a juice steam] A method according to claim 1, further comprising recovering or purifying [12 or 13 for the recovery or purification of] at least [a content] one nutritional substance from said juice stream.

17. (Amended) [Use of a juice steam] A method according to claim 16 [for the recovery of] , wherein said nutritional substance is a carbohydrate [, such as a starch or sugar].

18. (Amended) [Use of a juice steam] A method according to claim 1, further comprising recovering or purifying [12 or 13 for the recovery or purification of] at least one recombinant product[s] from said juice stream.

09/868,401-09701